

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 19, 2004 LR 14

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was not successful and I do raise the call. Mr. Clerk, did you have any items for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Smith, AM2596.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, you are recognized to open on your amendment, AM2596.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I would ask for a clarification of the amendment number, AM2596 or AM2599.

CLERK: Sorry, my mistake, Senator, AM2599. (Legislative Journal page 659.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, AM2599, I'm sorry.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and Mr. Clerk. AM2599 to LR 14CA suggests that after locations, the eight locations, that this issue would be subject to the approval of the registered voters of the county voting on the question of whether such casino shall be in such county. We've talked earlier about outside influences when it comes to gambling and how the contractor is very often from out of state, primarily Las Vegas, come in and suggest how great it would be to bring gambling into the state because it would garner so much revenue. Now I don't agree with that, but let's just assume that that's true, that there is all this gaming, and certainly the more of it you have the better off everyone is and taxes go down. Well, we've found that that isn't the case, and especially if the will of this body based on one statement made this morning, which it may not be the will of the body to do so, but it was stated that all kinds of other extras should be purchased with the funds generated from casino gambling in Nebraska. We've heard about the impacts. We've had a handout this morning from former coach and current Congressman Osborne pointing out that the more legalized gambling available the more addictive behavior it triggers. And, in fact, in 1989, 1.7 percent of Iowa's adults were gambling addicts. After the legalization of riverboat casinos, that number more than tripled to 5.4 percent. That